

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus; and
patient table,
wherein the magnetic resonance apparatus has a magnet structure, defining a cavity for accommodating a part of the body under examination, which magnetic structure is supported by a magnetic structure base block,
the patient table ~~and the apparatus having a base block and a supporting structure respectively, that are~~ that is slidable in at least one direction, wherein the patient table and the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus have ~~means for a removable connection therebetween, and guide thereof along predetermined relative displacement paths~~
the removable connection includes a guide for relative displacement between the patient table and the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus,
wherein the base block of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus has wheels, rollers or other means for sliding or rotating the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus relative to the patient table, and
the patient table supporting structure has wheels or rollers for sliding the patient table relative to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, comprising two or more patient tables that can be simultaneously coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus in different positions relative thereto.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, further comprising wherein a means for coupling patient tables to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus are guide means for displacement of the tables relative to each other and to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein the guide means for guiding comprises ~~and coupling the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus to the patient table(s) comprise~~ an arched guide ~~and a carriage to be removably coupled thereto, the guide being associated to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus,~~ and each table being associated connected to a carriage that can be coupled to said removable connection guide, wherein the ~~table(s)~~ tables have a supporting structure with wheels or rollers sliding along ~~the bearing surface~~.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, comprising:
a platform interposed between the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus and the floor, which platform has a base plate and an upper magnetic resonance imaging apparatus supporting plate, which upper support plate lies over the base plate, a sliding guide being interposed between said two plates, ~~which guide is~~

~~parallel to the table sliding guide, associated to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the removable connection ~~table sliding guide associated to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus~~ and the sliding guide interposed between the base plate and the upper plate of the platform are oriented along at least one straight axis.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, ~~wherein the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus is associated to~~ further comprising a table sliding guide that has the shape of a sector of a circle, whose axis is oriented perpendicular to the floor or to the apparatus supporting surface.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the sliding guide between the base plate and the upper supporting plate of the platform for the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus also has the shape of a sector of a circle and is coaxial to the table sliding guide ~~associated to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[6]]~~ 8, wherein the platform has an annular shape, ~~and only extends over a limited section, corresponding to the surface supporting the base block of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus, along the table sliding guide, the opposite side(s)~~ sides of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus having slidable support elements ~~whose height compensates for~~

~~the height difference of the platform,~~ which elements rest directly on the platform bearing floor, and the table supporting structure lies directly on the platform bearing floor, which table supporting structure has elements for sliding on the floor.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the platform also partly extends beneath the table ~~table(s)~~, coincident with at least the portion of the table supporting structure at the side whereat the ~~table(s)~~ are table is coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus sliding guide.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the portion of the platform which supports at least partly the ~~table(s)~~ table extends flush with the upper supporting surface of the portion of the sliding platform which supports the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the portion of the platform which supports the ~~table(s)~~ table is stationary and the table supporting structure has means for sliding, ~~particularly or~~ rolling ~~[[,]]~~ on said portion of the platform.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the portion of the platform which supports the ~~table(s)~~ table has an upper table supporting plate which is slidable along a base plate, ~~due to sliding and guide means whose extension is parallel to the sliding and guide means interposed between the upper support plate and the base plate of the platform portion associated to the magnetic resonance~~

~~imaging apparatus~~, whose extension is shaped like a sector of a circle coaxial to the sector shaped sliding guide between the upper support plate and the base part of the platform portion supporting the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

15. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the platform has a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus supporting extension which is designed to also support said apparatus on the side(s) thereof that are not fitted with the table sliding guide.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein ~~the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus has a magnet structure having a cavity for accommodating a body part under examination~~ at least one side thereof of the cavity forming an extension of the patient supporting surface of the patient table.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, wherein the sector-shaped sliding guides for the ~~table(s)~~ table and/or the upper support plate of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus supporting platform and/or the upper support plate of the extension of said platform, for supporting at least a portion of the ~~table(s)~~ table are coaxial to each other, their axis being perpendicular to and intersecting said at least one side of the magnet structure that forms the extension of the patient supporting surface of the ~~table(s)~~ table.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the magnet structure has an annular shape and delimits a cavity, for accommodating the body part under examination, which is open on two parallel sides.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the magnet structure has three open sides, the three open sides include two opposite parallel sides and one side transverse thereto, and the magnet structure substantially has a C or U shape.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 ~~[[8]]~~, wherein the sector-shaped guide for the ~~table(s)~~ table and/or the upper support plate of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus supporting platform and/or the upper support plate of the extension of said platform, for supporting at least a portion of the ~~table(s)~~ table extends through an angle of 360°.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 ~~[[8]]~~, wherein the sector-shaped guide for the ~~table(s)~~ table and/or the upper support plate of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus supporting platform and/or the upper support plate of the extension of said platform, for supporting at least a portion of the ~~table(s)~~ table extends through an angle of less than 360°.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 ~~[[8]]~~, wherein the sector-shaped guide for the ~~table(s)~~ table and/or the upper support plate of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus supporting platform and/or the upper support plate of

the extension of said platform, for supporting at least a portion of the ~~table(s)~~ table extends through an angle of less than 180°.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the platform for supporting the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus and at least a portion of the ~~table(s)~~ table is composed of elements having the shape of coaxial ~~and modular~~ annular sectors.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the ~~side(s)~~ sides of the magnet structure that form an extension of the ~~table(s)~~ table have an outer edge that is arched ~~substantially~~ coaxial to the table sliding guide, which edge extends along said guide and is superimposed thereto, level with the table surface.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the guide for relative slidable displacement of at least one of the patient ~~table~~ tables and the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus is fitted onto an intermediate table part that may be removably coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus and has a complementary cavity for accommodating the magnet structure sides which form the extension of the ~~table(s)~~ tables, said intermediate part of the ~~table~~ tables being common to the two or more tables that may be simultaneously coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein said intermediate part of the table is coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus, by means of sliding

guides, along which the sliding motion occurs along at least one coupling and uncoupling direction, means being provided for locking said intermediate part of the table in the coupling limit stop position and/or in one or more different intermediate positions marking different distances of the intermediate part of the table from the magnet structure of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the ~~table(s)~~ table are coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus at one end side and extend ~~substantially~~ radially with respect to the sector-shaped sliding guide.

28. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus; and
two patient tables that are coupled to said apparatus ~~on substantially~~
~~diametrically opposite sides of,~~
a guide for relative slidable displacement of said patient tables and said apparatus, which guide consists of least two diametrically opposite, separate sections, which extend through an angle of less than 180°, ~~especially of less than 90°~~, and said ~~guides straddling the~~ guide straddles a line that joins the longitudinal axes of the patient tables, which line passes through the cavity for accommodating the body under examination, which cavity is defined by the a magnet structure of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the two separate guide sections are coaxial to each other.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the two guide sections are diametrically opposite portions of a single continuous sector-shaped guide.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein ~~only the tables and/or only~~ the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus ~~and/or both~~ may rotate ~~coaxial~~ coaxially to said ~~guide or to said~~ separate guide sections.

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus and/or the tables have wheels or means allowing them to slide or roll on the floor surface and/or on a platform.

33. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the two tables have means for locking them in the angular positions in which they are coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

34. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus; and
at least one patient table or two tables that are coupled to said apparatus, on substantially diametrically opposite sides of a guide for relative slidable displacement of said patient table or tables and said apparatus, which guide has the shape of a sector of a circle, and

at least one platform that rotates with an axis of rotation coaxial to ~~[[the]]~~ an axis of the sector-shaped guide for the ~~[[table(s)]]~~ at least one of the tables, the

magnetic resonance imaging apparatus being positioned on said platform, whereas the ~~[[table(s)]]~~ table or tables have means allowing them to slide or roll directly on the floor.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34 ~~comprising a, wherein the platform having an annular or~~ has a circular shape ~~or the shape of a sector of a ring or a circle, said platform rotating about its axis, which is coaxial to the axis of the table sliding guide,~~ further comprising an additional annular platform being provided adjacent and coincident with ~~[[the]]~~ an area supporting at least a portion of the table supporting structure, which additional platform supports at least a portion of the table supporting structure.

36. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the annular platform which supports at least a portion of the table structure is also rotatable and coaxial to the platform for supporting the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus and to the axis of the table sliding guide.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 36, wherein the table supporting structure rests on the rotating additional annular platform in a non slidable manner at one end side, and on the floor or a stationary platform, with the interposition of sliding or rolling means, at the other end side.

38. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the wheels, rollers, or other means enable the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus to rotate relative to the patient table.